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The ENEMY

*knows
your planes*





No one now knows better the quality of American planes than the Japanese and the Germans.

American planes have blasted their factories out of operation and reduced their impregnable fortresses to rubble.

American planes have destroyed thousands of German and Japanese aircraft. American planes have dropped parachutists to attack where and when they were least expected. American planes have demolished enemy submarines and surface craft.

The enemy knows your planes. He learned about them the hard way.



MUSTANG

The Mustang has kicked the enemy hard and often. One of the world's fastest planes, the P-51 operates both at high levels in bomber escort and in low-level strafing attacks. Captain Don S. Gentile flies a Mustang. It is the kind of plane that is flown by that kind of pilot.

Mustangs protecting our heavies have knocked German planes back down into their own German back yards. Recently a Mustang flew from a base in England, through Holland, Germany, and France, shooting up three enemy seaplanes, four barges, and two trains on the jaunt. The only thing that hit the P-51 was a seagull, and the Mustang ran into that.

FLYING FORTRESS

Berlin, Essen, Cologne, Schweinfurt, and hundreds of other enemy targets in Europe and in the South Pacific know the Fortress well. They should. Fortresses have been over all of them many times, and those places have never been quite the same since.

In one month of 1944, B-17's dropped 12,887 tons of bombs on vital enemy installations all over the world, inflicting incalculable damage. Despite flak and every kind of fighter opposition, they have gotten through to their targets and dropped their tons of devastation.

Small wonder a Japanese officer wrote, "Our combat planes cannot get close to the enemy Flying Fortresses. It's very regrettable that the only alternative is for us to flee from being killed."

LIBERATOR

In a single engagement the 10-man crew of "Pistol Packin' Mama" destroyed 15 enemy aircraft in a desperate air battle, staggered badly damaged through a successful bomb run on a German aircraft factory, then fought its way back through swarms of enemy fighters.

"Pistol Packin' Mama" is a B-24 Liberator. So is "Wash Tub," which was cited by Major General Lewis H. Brereton for "outstanding service in aerial operations against the enemy over a period of 15 months in the Middle East." So is "The Squaw," which also was cited, partly for its share in the famous low-level raid on Ploesti.

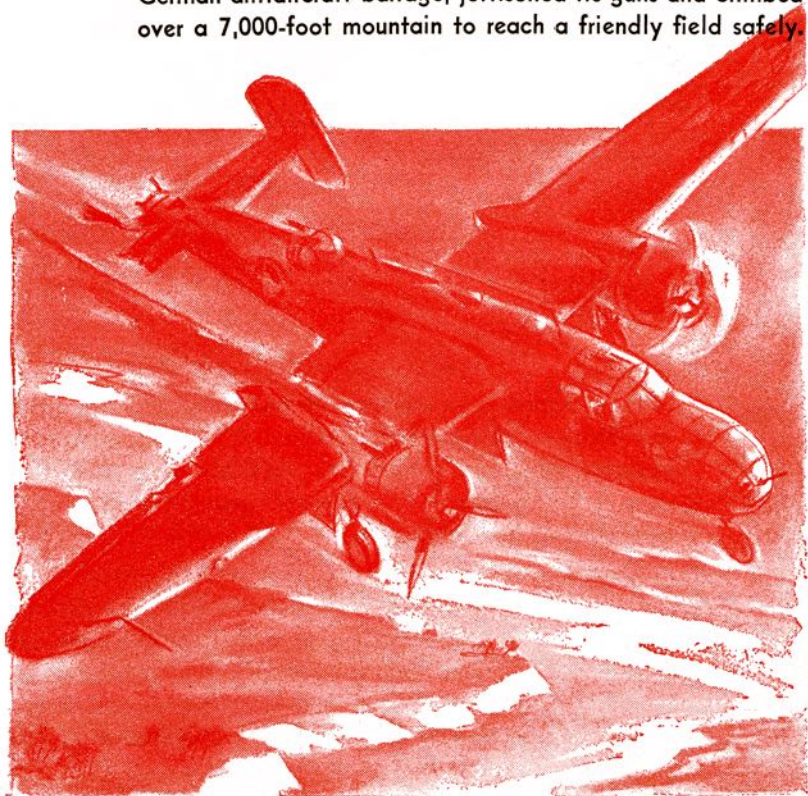
177 Liberators flew a round trip of 2,000 miles in the great Ploesti attack to destroy one-third of the Axis oil supply in Europe. The B-24's carried out that low-flying attack through heavy enemy fire and fighter opposition. On other missions Liberators have bombed their targets from altitudes above 20,000 feet.

MITCHELL

Many of the enemy can't tell what they learned about the Billy Mitchell. They're dead. Famous early in the war as the Tokyo raider, this medium bomber has done every type of job in every theater—bombing, strafing, torpedo carrying, transport, reconnaissance, fighting.

When 75-mm. cannon were installed in them, Mitchells promptly went out and destroyed a Jap air transport as it landed. Five shots from a 75-mm.-equipped Mitchell sank a Jap destroyer. Mitchells have gone into action against landing barges, gun emplacements, and tanks.

Recently a Mitchell with one engine shot out completed its bombing mission near Anzio, then, running through a heavy German antiaircraft barrage, jettisoned its guns and climbed over a 7,000-foot mountain to reach a friendly field safely.



COMMANDO

The Japanese have reason to know the Commando well. The 14th Air Force under General Claire L. Chennault brought down 351 Japanese aircraft from 2 February 1942 to 31 October 1943, and have shot down many since.

The 14th could not have accomplished this without the aid of the C-46, one of the principal cargo ships of the India-China Wing of the Air Transport Command. Since Japanese closure of the Burma Road every item of equipment and maintenance, as well as supplies for the Chinese Army, has had to be flown "over the Hump" into China. The bulk of these supplies are being flown in by Commandos.

Commandos must make this trip in some of the worst weather in the world. Peaks 17,000 feet high have to be cleared by instrument flying. If they veer to the North they meet 22,000-foot mountains; if they veer to the South, they drift into Japanese-held Burma.

It is over this route that Commandos are delivering the goods to smash Japan.

THUNDERBOLT

"Even though it is the enemy's, we must admit that the armor and firepower of the newest, crack P-47 display admirable qualities and efficiency." The Japanese broadcast this statement from Tokyo to their own people. It was an admission based on hard experience.

The Germans, especially the pilots of Focke-Wulf 190's and ME 109's, might well have made similar observations, for their contacts with the Thunderbolts have not been encouraging. Our most heavily armed single-engine fighter has a habit of knocking these particular German planes out of the sky one after another at fighting altitudes of 20,000 to 31,000 feet.



LIGHTNING

"Twin-tailed Devil!" was what one hysterical German pilot brought down by a Lightning in Tunisia called the P-38. On more than one occasion German fighters have refused combat with Lightnings. Once eight Zeros on the tail of an American heavy bomber suddenly peeled off to streak after a lone P-38—a Lightning that, equipped with cameras instead of guns, was carrying out a reconnaissance mission.

Lightnings have fought with deadly effectiveness on all fronts. Their terrific speed, high rate of climb, and combat maneuverability have made them the terror of the enemy. The enemy dislikes a plane that can fight 8 miles in the air, fly long-range deep into Germany as escort for our Fortresses and Liberators, then turn around and fly fighter-bomber missions on its own.



"In this year alone more than a hundred German cities have felt the weight of our bombs. The Army Air Forces, in hearty cooperation with the Royal Air Force, has plastered 48 aircraft factories, many of them repeatedly, as the enemy tried to rebuild. In April alone, we knocked 1,140 German fighters out of the air and destroyed 177 more on the ground. In one month our U. S. Army Air Forces alone flew 66,000 sorties over Hitler's Europe, and dropped 57,000 tons of bombs—more than in the whole year of 1943. They do not all find their marks, but the continuing treatment is medicinal. And the Japanese, for their part, may rest assured that it is only a matter of time before the treatment is available to them at home."

General Henry H. Arnold, U. S. A.
Commanding General, Army Air Forces.

KEEP BUILDING THOSE PLANES



U. S. ARMY